

MINUTES

Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 13, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting / (248) 509-0316 | ID: 640 061 717#

PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC

Attending remotely:

Ann Conklin; Canton Township, Wayne County, Michigan
Julie Clark; Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan
Jim Bradley; Green, Ontonagon County, Michigan
Bob Hoffmeyer; Clarkston, Oakland County, Michigan
Mike MacDonald; Haslett, Ingham County, Michigan
Chris Graham; Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Shaun McKeon; Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan
Mike Foote; Ada, Kent County, Michigan
Dave Nyberg; Marquette, Marquette County, Michigan
Mary Pitcher; Lake Township, Benzie County, Michigan

PRD STAFF PRESENT

Ron Olson, Chief
Jacklin Blodgett
Vicki McGhee
Jason Fleming
Michael Desnoyer
Scott Pratt
Eric Cadeau
Ray Fahlsing
Mike Knack
John Pepin
Barbara Graves

OPENING COMMENTS

Committee member Ann Conklin called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ann Conklin motioned for approval of the August 11, 2021, meeting minutes. The motion was moved by **Mike McDonald**, supported by **Mike MacDonald**, and passed unanimously.

The agenda was revised to postponed discussion of the MSPAC restructure plan until the next meeting in order to gather more information that comes out of tomorrow's NRC meeting.

The proposed change to the MSPAC bylaws was discussed. The revision would remove reference to the Open Meetings Act and allow the ability to continue to hold virtual meetings. It is the intention to follow the general rules but also be able to hold virtual meetings until such time when gathering is appropriate.

Ann Conklin motioned for approval of the amended bylaws to remove the Open Meetings Act reference and to allow virtual meetings. The motion was moved by **Mike McDonald**, supported by **Julie Clark**, and passed unanimously.

Jim Bradley said he would like to see the option to hold hybrid meetings, both in person and virtual. **Mary Pitcher** suggested meeting at a park once per year.

Historic Structures Review

Ray Fahlsing, Stewardship Unit Manager, gave an overview of an inventory of historic structures that was finalized this year which includes lighthouses, buildings, memorials, and bridges. 141 were added, 202 structures are listed on the NRHP, and an additional 66 structures are likely eligible. Fifty-one PRD administered properties have extant historic structures - 44 state parks and recreation areas, 4 linear state parks, and 3 other PRD administered properties. There are 303 buildings, 45 bridges, 42 other, and 13 memorial/statues. The list will be used to determine Recreation Passport Cultural Resource funding. The next step is to have an evaluation of the needs of these structures. Lisa Gamero, Resource Analyst, is retiring in December and they are replacing her with a Historic Architect.

Strategic Plan Process

Vicki McGhee, Planning and Infrastructure Chief, presented Parks and Recreation's Strategic Plan process for the new, 5-year (2023 – 2027) plan that is scheduled for completion at the end of 2022. Presentation attached.

American Recovery Plan – Process

Eric Cadeau, working out of class Planning and Infrastructure Unit Manager, presented the process for which they prepared the list of projects for the CARES funds, including timeline, amounts, and DNR-PRD guiding principles. Report attached.

Porcupine Mountains State Park (PMSP) - Search and Rescue

Mike Knack, Unit Manager and Mike Grzenia, Lead Ranger, PMSP, gave a presentation on the unique facet of the amount of search and rescue efforts that occur at the park every year. Presentation attached.

Beach Closure LUOD

Jason Fleming, Resource Protection and Promotion Chief, reviewed the LUO that would allow them to close designated beach access to water due to hazardous conditions, whether they be rip tides or environmental conditions. The order was drafted with collaboration from local emergency management entities and with input from the community, including watersport users. If signed, it will go into effect in 2022.

FY22 Budget Highlights

Everything in the submitted FY22 budget was approved with some added enhancement grants; \$4M for Houghton Trail restoration and \$200K for beach water hazard upgrades at Holland and Grand Haven. The CARES funds are pending legislative approval.

Park Updates

Camping and lodging nights were over 1.4M; a record-setting number. Numbers have moved in a positive direction. The fee increase will go into effect November 1 for the '22 season and will help backfill the revenue need for the '23 budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.



MSPAC

PROCESS TO ESTABLISH 2023 PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION STRATEGIC PLAN

OCTOBER 14, 2021



PROCESS TO ESTABLISH 2023 PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION STRATEGIC PLAN

- CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN (2017-2022) EXPIRES AT END OF 2022
- CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN WAS A COMPLETE REWRITE OF THE 2009 PLAN:
 - SIMPLIFIED CONTENT
 - INCORPORATED SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAM CHANGES
- STRATEGIC PLAN TEAM IS INITIATING PROCESS TO UPDATE THE PLAN, WHICH WILL GUIDE PRD ACTIONS FROM 2023-2027
- EXISTING PLAN PROVIDES A GOOD FOUNDATION FOR AN UPDATE VS. COMPLETE REWRITE
- CURRENT PLAN:
ESTABLISHES ANNUAL ACTIONS FOR SELECT OBJECTIVES/STRATEGIES
SUMMARIZES PROGRESS WITH ANNUAL REPORT
- ACCOMPLISHMENTS REPORT DISTRIBUTED FOR REFERENCE



PROPOSED PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

AUGUST 2021 – KICK-OFF PLAN UPDATE (ASSESS CONTENT, PROCESS, CHANGES; REVIEW SIMILAR AGENCY PLANS)

OCTOBER 2021- MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW EXISTING PLAN AND PROCESS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021 - STAFF INPUT (SECTION AND DISTRICT MEETINGS)

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021 - STAKEHOLDER INPUT (VIRTUAL)

JANUARY 2022 - ENGAGE “CONTENT TEAMS” TO WORK ON SPECIFIC PLAN ELEMENTS

MAY 2022 - DRAFT PLAN UPDATE COMPLETE

JUNE/JULY 2022 - SOLICIT INPUT (INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL) ON DRAFT UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2022 - COMPLETE FINAL DRAFT PLAN

OCTOBER/NOV. 2022 - PRESENT AND SEEK PRD/DNR APPROVALS

DEC. 2022 - COMPLETE FINAL, NEW 2023- 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

American Rescue Act

Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Parks and Recreation Division

Program Statement

10-1-2021

Background

On June 10, 2021 Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced her plan for critical investments in state parks and trails so that public spaces across Michigan become a more attractive destination for tourism and position the state as a recreation leader. The plan calls for a historic investment of \$250 million in federal relief dollars from President Biden's American Rescue Plan to be used for new investments in parks and trails and to address the backlog of park infrastructure projects, which will help support Michigan businesses and local economies¹.

This announcement proposed: A historic investment that will modernize parks and trails, improve access, and preserve them for generations to come. Funding will be used for projects that include upgrading water and sanitary systems, preserving historic structures, and installing and improving vital park infrastructure.

The announcement referenced a 2012, a 16-member Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel report on seven core recommendations to then Gov. Rick Snyder² and the State Budget Office's summary report "American Rescue Plan, Department of Natural Resources, Modernizing State Parks and Recreation Areas"³

The American Rescue Act program requires expending the funds by December 31, 2026. This effectively positions the State of Michigan (SOM) and Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (DNR-PRD) with a 5-year program.

¹ Whitmer, Gretchen. "Governor Announces Plan for Historic \$250 Million Investment to Modernize State Parks and Trails to Enhance Tourism, Boost Local Economies", *Michigan.gov*, Press releases from The Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer, 10 June 2021, https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90640-561901--,00.html

² The Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel. "The Future of Michigan's Parks and Outdoor Recreation: A Report to Governor Rick Snyder", *Michigan.gov*, State of Michigan, 23 September 2012, https://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/ParksPanelFinal_401824_7.pdf

³ State Budget Office, "American Rescue Plan, Department of Natural Resources, Modernizing State Parks and Recreation Areas", *Michigan.gov*, State of Michigan, June 2021, https://www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/6-10-21_State_Parks_ARP_Plan_727492_7.pdf

Timeline:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Revise project list: | Oct. 2021 |
| 2. Complete project list: | Nov. 30, 2021 |
| 3. American Rescue Act program approval: | Dec. 2021 / Jan. 2022 |
| 4. Design: | Dec. 2021 / Jan. 2022 – Dec. 2022 |
| 5. Key deadline – Obligation deadline: | Dec. 31, 2024 |
| 6. Construction: | March 2023 – Dec. 31, 2026. |
| 7. Key deadline – Spending reimbursement deadline: | Dec. 31, 2026 |

Funding amounts:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. American Rescue Act Program: | \$250,000,000 |
| 2. <u>Parks Capital Outlay Program FY22-FY26 (projected):</u> | <u>\$73,000,000</u> |
| Total: | \$323,000,000 |

DNR-PRD Guiding Principles

1. Protect/modernize the core infrastructure of the state park system.
2. Focus on caring for and improving existing State Parks, Recreation Areas, and Non-motorized trail infrastructure.
3. Modernize state park features and implement best practices (e.g. such as implementing full-hookup campsites in lieu of replacing a campground (CG) restroom building).
4. Incorporate sustainable practices in the design/implementation, such as including use of recycled materials, green infrastructure, energy efficiency, LEED development practices, etc.
5. Continue to expand accessibility features that reach beyond the minimum Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
6. Address non-motorized trails within state park boundaries first, then regional, non-motorized trails second.
7. Apply economy of scale by bundling projects to improve contract bids/pricing and to produce efficiencies in design, project management, and public impacts.
8. Incorporate features that improve operational efficiencies and long-range cost savings when feasible.
9. Incorporate innovative solutions (e.g. stormwater retention, user-pay CG electric, etc.).
10. Employ Challenge Funding to leverage the capital outlay investment.

Additional Guidance:

Based on Governor Gretchen Whitmer's proposal and the referenced documents produced by the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel and State Budget Office, the DNR-PRD has established guiding principles for Modernizing State Parks and Recreation Areas through the American Rescue Act program. They are:

1. From **Gov. Whitmer's proposal**
 - a. Upgrading water and sanitary systems
 - b. Preserving historic structures
 - c. Installing and improving vital park infrastructure.
2. From the **2012 Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel**
 - a. Forewords from the Co-chairs
 - i. The recommendations focus on creating a 21st century infrastructure built around protecting and interpreting natural, cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources, completing a connected, multi modal trail network, and the development of urban signature parks.
 - ii. The state targets investments toward desired outcomes, integrates tourism and economic development promotion, prioritizes safety and maintenance, and helps communities use their park and recreation assets to strengthen regional identity.
 - b. Recommendations
 - i. Recommendation 1: Identify and protect important natural, cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources for the enjoyment and education of Michigan's residents and visitors and expand efforts to engender stewardship of those resources.
 - ii. Recommendation 3: Make the development of statewide and regional systems of connected trail networks one of the state's highest priorities for outdoor recreation investment over the next ten years.
 - iii. Recommendation 5: Use parks and recreation areas as a key tool for revitalizing Michigan's core urban areas by creating four to five Signature Parks and integrating green infrastructure into Michigan's urban redesign and redevelopment efforts.
 1. ☐ As Michigan's cities redesign and upgrade their neighborhoods and infrastructure, they must incorporate green infrastructure, and find ways to restore vacant or underutilized industrial land to create safe and attractive natural areas within or near our urban cores.
 - iv. Recommendation 7: Prioritize investment in the safety and maintenance of, and access to, parks and recreation spaces.
 - c. From the State Budget Office's American Rescue Plan summary sheet:
 - i. The state parks have a backlog of over \$264 million in deferred maintenance for aging historic structures, camping facilities, water and sanitary systems, and other vital infrastructure.

Strategies employed to develop the project list:

1. Begin with FY2022 Parks Capital Outlay list & Stimulus/Shovel-ready List (4/1/2021).
2. Remove projects that have been fully funded or are complete.
3. Removed “New Infrastructure” which represents “desired expansion” of the State Parks and trails system. Retained projects on the Stimulus project list which represent a critical piece of new infrastructure that support the entirety of a park or ensures quality public access and use for the existing visitors and amenities that exist at the park.
4. Removed “non-priority” and “desirable” items. The selected projects represent the most relevant needs, and omitted projects that may be scrutinized as unnecessary.
5. Performed asset management checks:
 - i. Campground electrical: Reviewed all campground electrical systems for age, condition, compliance with modern electric code, and historic priority for replacement. Evaluated for functionality, projected obsolescence and ability to meet current use demands. Removed projects which were low priority. Added newly identified campground electrical need locations (e.g. very old systems) to the list.
 - ii. Paving: Reviewed all State Park and Recreation Area roads and parking lots for condition (Paser) ratings. Evaluated for condition, project relevancy, and limits of proposed work. Removed projects which were low priority. Added newly identified priorities to the list.
 - iii. Buildings: Incorporated structure age and condition in the proposed building evaluations, including headquarters buildings, toilet shower buildings, day use restrooms and beach houses, and campground offices / contact stations, which assisted in establishing priorities.
 - iv. Underground water & sewer systems: Reviewed these utilities for age and operation issues. Removed projects which were low priority. Added newly identified priorities to the list.
 - v. Reviewed campground sanitation stations for level of service per number of campsites served. Removed projects which were low priority. Added newly identified priority locations to the list.
6. Performed American Rescue Act Prioritization.
 - i. Priority 1 items – Conditions requiring immediate attention to address health and safety issues, immediate maintenance measures to preserve and/or significantly enhance function or serviceability, and ADA accessibility for principal park buildings.
 - ii. Priority 2 items – Preventative maintenance measures and construction and rehabilitation measures with lesser priority or less urgent time frame requirements than Priority One – 3 to 5-year timetable.
 - iii. Priority 3 items – Conditions requiring general maintenance or addressing aesthetic issues 6 to 10-year timetable.
 - iv. Priority 4 items – No action required during ten (10) year period.

7. Provided updated and uniform cost estimating for the following features:
 - i. Roads and parking lots - \$287,000 per lane mile.
 - ii. Campground electrical replacements - \$8,500 per campsite.
 - iii. Sanitation stations - \$500,000 per project.
 - iv. Buildings
 1. Campground toilet shower building - \$1,000,000 per building
 2. Headquarters building - \$1,000,000 to \$1,100,000 per building
 3. Day use restroom - \$850,000 per building
 4. Contact Station (Campground office) - \$500,000 per buildingNote: Some exceptions apply to historic / non-standard structures / non-standard conditions.
8. Pared down program lists to match American Rescue Act program value (\$250,000,000):
 - i. Parks Project List
 1. All American Rescue Act Priority 4's were removed.
 2. Nearly all of the American Rescue Act Priority 3's were removed. Note: A limited number of exceptions may apply due to special program considerations, or the potential for the project to be related to critical infrastructure (utility, building, road).
 3. Projects were evaluated for economy of scale.
 - a. If a singular project existed at a park it may have been highlighted for deletion to limit the # of projects and project locations being managed at any one given time. Additionally, the pursuit of economies of scale has been considered throughout the list.
 - b. If a project with a unique trade (architectural trades) existed where there was predominately utility, earth work, and roads. It may have been recommended for deletion due a variety of factors, which included: Improvement category priority, age or condition of feature, economies of scale, or the magnitude of investment already proposed at the park. These projects were evaluated to determine if they could be done at another time as a stand-alone project.
 - ii. Trails Project List
 1. Trails within a State Park or Recreation Area were given highest priority.
 2. Trails that fell entirely outside of a State Park or Recreation Area were recommended for deletion.
 - a. Note: A limited number of exceptions may apply due to special program considerations.
 - iii. Belle Isle Project List
 1. The two highest priorities for the Belle Isle Project list have been identified for potential funding. Due to the significant investment in

these two priorities, all other Belle Isle Projects have been recommended for deletion.

iv. Waterways Project List

1. All waterways projects were evaluated for the level of significance to which they contribute to the State Park or Recreation Area. Only one of the projects on the Waterways List appear to represent a proposed investment which is critical to the public's access or primary enjoyment of the State Parks or Recreation Areas in which it is relevant to. All other projects were identified as supporting features and not critical features.

9. Grouping

- i. Project list organized to show proposed project groupings per State Park facility. A total value of all Unit investments proposed is also included.
- ii. Project list organized to show proposed project groupings per DNR-PRD Operational District. A total value of all investments proposed per District is also included.

10. Tiering

- i. District Supervisors and Regional Field Planners "Tier" the projects. Tiering refers to identifying projects which are recommended to be awarded in Year 1 (2022) versus projects in Years 2-5 (2023-2026). The process of tiering projects will become the draft recommendations for a "5-year Joint Development Plan" between the American Rescue Act funding and the DNR-PRD annual Parks Capital Outlay program.

11. Consolidating: More ARA investment and fewer locations

12. Strategically using Parks Capital Outlay

- i. Develop 5-year plan (FY2022 – FY 2026) for Parks Capital Outlay spending which focuses investment on Parks which may not have received ARA funding or which may not have received much ARA funding.
- ii. Develop strategy for how to best spend Parks Capital Outlay funds during this time.
 1. Note Proposal 1 requirements.

Porcupine
Mountains
Wilderness State
Park
Search & Rescue
2021

MSPAC 10/13/2021



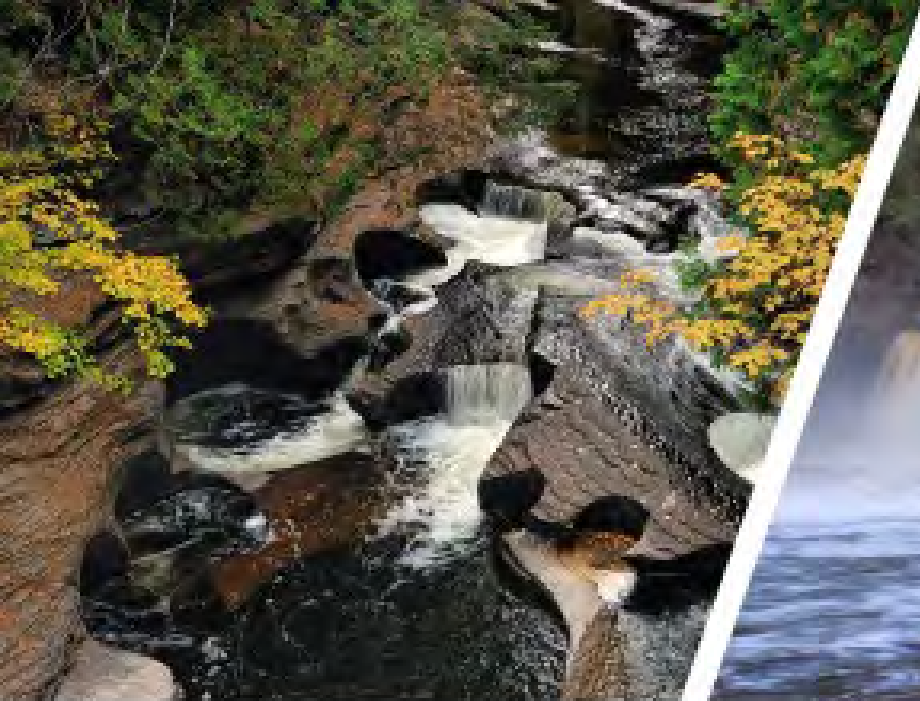
The Park

- 60,000 acres of designated wilderness area
- Extends into two counties and two time zones
- 90 miles of hiking trails & 36k of winter trails
- 23 miles of lake superior shoreline
- 230 campsites + 24 cabins and yurts
- 3 scenic sites, 2 boating access sites
- Winter sports complex & a shooting complex

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park









The Porkies Staff

The Numbers

- Visitation: 550-600k in 2020-2021
- Ski Patrol also conducted 21 rescues at the Ski Hill
- Rescues: 78 in 2021 totaling 841 staff hours
- Most searches are resolved in under 24 hours
- Average 2 fatalities per year
- Rescue Boat: deployed 6 times
- Argo: deployed twice
- Snowmobiles: utilized on 3 rescues
- Rescue Litter: 8 rescues
- 51 - lost or overdue hikers
- 27 - medical in nature: primarily tib-fib fractures



Backcountry ankle
breakers



Oversized loads = broken ankles & exhaustion



The reasons hikers get lost

The Challenges

- Rugged terrain: rocks, roots, mud, fast moving rivers, waterfalls, cliffs, extreme temperatures.
- Extremely limited cell service & poor radio communications.
- Access! 80% of the park is only accessible by foot due to topography.
- Limited outside recourses.
- No two rescues are alike.
- Always a race against time. It takes 45 mins to get from LOC – P.I.
*Golden Hour!
- Rescuer Fatigue

The Anatomy of a Search

- Park Staff acts as the Incident Commander. State Police, DNR Law, Sheriff's Dept. Federal Agencies team up with Rangers on the search.
- Incident command and transfer of command occurs when it is believed that there is a criminal element involved.

Anatomy of a SAR incident

- Information Gathering
- Obtain as much information as possible, including but not limited to:
 - Name of missing person
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Description (physical and clothing)
 - Area last seen
 - Name of person reporting missing person
- Keep the reporting party with you to gain additional information.

Anatomy of a SAR incident

MISSING PERSON CHECKLIST

Upon report of a missing child or person, perform the following steps.

1. Get details including:

a.	Time of report of disappearance	
b.	Name of person reporting disappearance	
c.	Time of disappearance	
d.	Age and Name of missing person	
e.	Description of person (male / female)	
f.	Hair color/length	
g.	Stature	
h.	Type of clothing worn	
i.	Where last seen	
j.	What person was doing last time seen	
k.	If camping, site number	
l.	Disposition of missing person (depressed, suicidal, etc.)	
m.	Did missing person have an argument w/anyone recently?	

Anatomy of a SAR incident

Number of subjects

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| - 1 person | 1 |
| - 2 people | 2 |
| - 3 or more | 3 |

Age

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| - 0-12 years | 1 |
| - 12-17 years | 2 |
| - 17-60 years | 3 |
| - 60+ years | 1 |

Physical Condition

- | | |
|------------|---|
| - Not fit | 1 |
| - Fit | 2 |
| - Very Fit | 3 |

Medical Condition

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| - Known illness requiring medication | 1 |
| - Suspected illness or injury | 2 |

Assignment of Tasks

- Assignment of tasks are be based on
 - Experience
 - Knowledge
 - Function

Search Strategies

Hasty Search

This is a quick and efficient search by small teams that travel quickly to the likely spots and by the route of least resistance. A hasty search is generally the first tactic used in the early hours of a search. The hope is the subject is still alive and responsive.

Search Strategies

Active Search

This is a more organized yet rapid search of a large area checking likely spots. Search teams will hike all the probable trails that the lost person could be on.

Search Strategies

Line Search

Used to search for someone unresponsive, injured or off trail. Spacing may be as much as 100 feet between searchers. Density of the brush dictates how far apart searchers may be and the distance will fluctuate depending on the visibility.

This tactic maximizes the Probability of Detection and area searched.

Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park





The Training





Winter Survival & Snowmobile Operations Training

Annual Ice Rescue Training with US Coast Guard

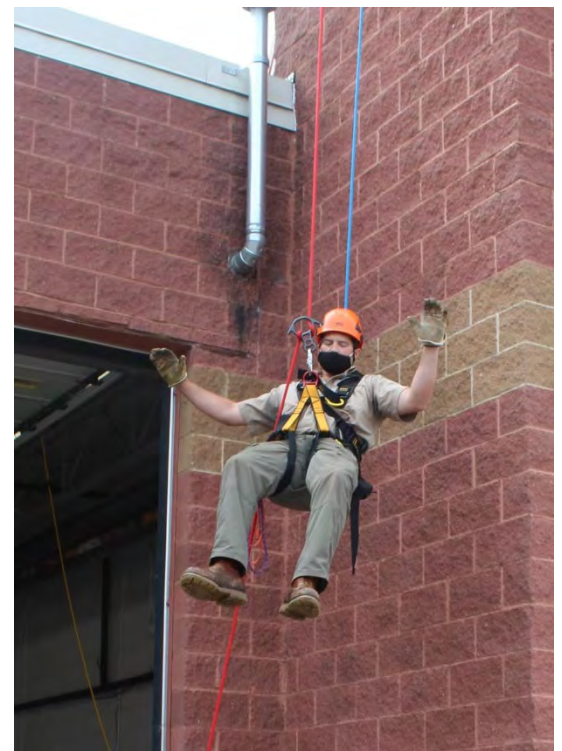


Chairlift Evacuation Training with Porkies Ski Patrol





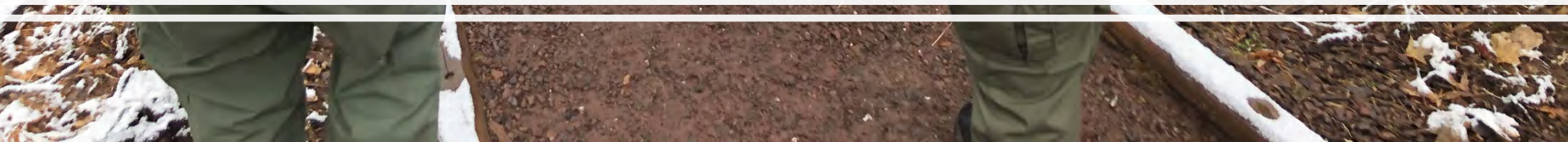
NASAR Search function
training with US Coast
Guard



High & Low angle rope rescue training

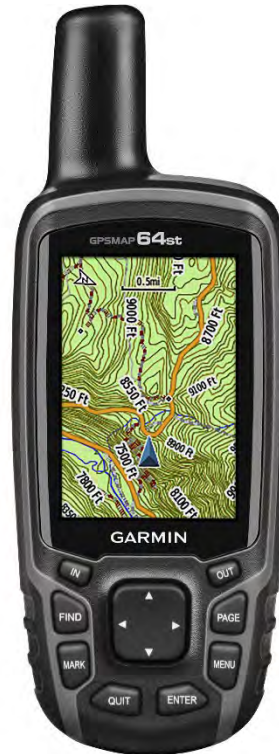


The Equipment



Rescue Packs & 10 essentials





Communications 800 mhz radios and Spot X



Oxygen administration & AED's



Cascade Rescue Litters



Rescue Tent with portable wood stove



3 Tundra 600's & 2
Skandic 900 Snowmobiles



Enclosed Rescue Pod



Tracked JD Gator and Bobcat UTV's

Rescue Argo with Tracks Orientation Training.





Generously donated by the Friends of the Porkies



21' Munson Landing
Craft twin 115 motors



Coming Soon!
Mobile Incident Command – Rescue
Trailer



Additional Resources: MSP K9 Units



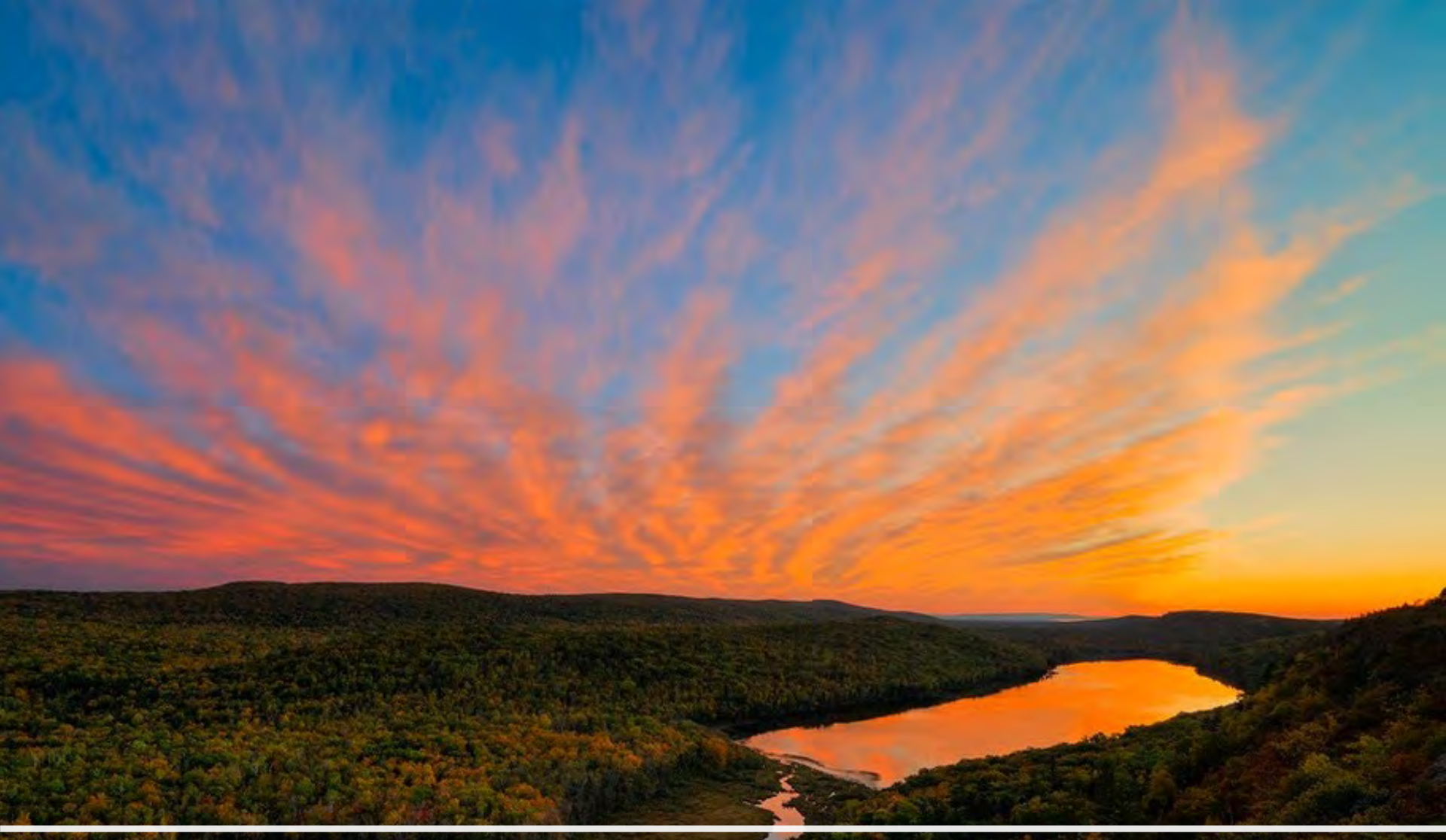
Civil Air Patrol Houghton, MI



USCG Helicopter via Traverse City CG Station

The advantages to successful outcomes

- Highly dedicated and professional staff who are a “rescue team.”
- Division Support for trainings and resources.
- Annual Trainings in a variety of Rescue Scenarios.
- Strong partnerships with local MSP, DNR Law, OCSD, EMS & USFS.
- The Porkies has no “Cold Cases” all persons who have been lost in the park have been recovered.



Thank you, Questions?
For reservations call 1-800-44-PARKS
midnrrreservations.com